

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3192
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
THEFT OF SANDALWOOD
Patil Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds allocated to Maharashtra under the joint forest management programme during the last three years and the percentage of forest land in the State, district-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the growing incidents of sandalwood thefts by organised gangs from forest lands in Satana district of Maharashtra;
- (c) if so, the number of such incidents reported by the District Forest Administration during the last three years and current year and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether nexus between forest officials and sandalwood smugglers has been observed; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken/to be taken to overcome the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) Under National Afforestation Programme of the Ministry, an amount of Rs. 18.63 crore has been released during last three years to Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) in the State of Maharashtra for regeneration and eco-development of degraded forests and adjoining areas by involving Joint Forest Management Committees. The detailed statement indicating district-wise percentage of forest cover in the State is given in the Annexure.
- (b) Yes Sir.
- (c) Illicit cutting of 284 sandalwood trees has been reported by the District Forest Administration during the last three years and upto November 2004 of the current year. 50 offence cases have been registered and 41 accused have been prosecuted in the court.
- (d)&(e) The Ministry has not received any report regarding nexus between forest officials and sandalwood smugglers.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha USQ No. 3192 to be replied on 20.12.2004

DISTRICT-WISE PERCENTAGE OF FOREST COVER IN MAHARASHTRA

Sl.No. Name of District Percentage of Forest Cover

- 1. Ahmadnagar 1.83
- 2. Akola 6.70
- 3. Amravati 25.69
- 4. Aurangabad 4.84
- 5. Bhandara 25.84
- 6. Bid 2.44
- 7. Mumbai City 0.64

8. Mumbai Suburb 18.39

9. Buldana 6.41
10. Chandrapur 34.49
11. Dhule 6.86
12. Gadchiroli 69.78
13. Gondiya 37.92
14. Hingoli 2.50
15. Jalgaon 10.56
16. Jaina 1.32
17. Raigarh 31.99
18. Kolhapur 23.60
19. Latur 0.92
20. Nagpur 19.83
21. Nanded 8.10
22. Nandurbar 24.12
23. Nashik 7.07
24. Osmanabad 1.22
25. Parbhani 2.11
26. Pune 8.40
27. Ratnagiri 26.94
28. Sangli 1.75
29. Satara 8.67
30. Sholapur 0.36
31. Sindhudurg 45.67
32. Thane 27.95
33. Wardha 13.41
34. Washim 6.46
35. Yavatmal 18.77

Forest Cover in State 15.43